

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~In a method of~~ An image forming method for removing a substance from an image carrier that disfigures an image, wherein the method comprises,

contacting an adsorbent with the image carrier, wherein the adsorbent has having a molecular structure including voids that have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of said substance~~[[,]] which is deposited on a surface of an~~ the image carrier~~[[,]] therethrough through the adsorbent and contain water therein is held in contact with said image carrier.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A device for removing a substance that disfigures an image, said device comprising:

an adsorbent support supporting an adsorbent having a molecular structure including voids that have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of said substance, ~~which is deposited on a surface of an image carrier, therethrough and containing~~ contain water therein, wherein the substance is present on the surface of an image carrier.

Claim 3 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adsorbent is affixed to said adsorbent support.

Claim 4 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said adsorbent comprises grains releasably carried on said adsorbent support.

Claim 5 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said adsorbent support includes an elastic body carrying said adsorbent.

Claim 6 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 6, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

Claim 8 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

Claim 9 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

Claim 10 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said adsorbent support comprises an elastic body and a surface layer removably fitted on said elastic layer body, said adsorbent being carried on said surface layer.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said adsorbent support comprises a brush having bristles on which said adsorbent is carried.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said adsorbent support comprises an endless belt passed over a plurality of support members, said adsorbent being carried on a surface of said endless belt.

Claim 14 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

Claim 15 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said adsorbent support includes an elastic body carrying said adsorbent.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said adsorbent support comprises an elastic body and a surface layer removably fitted on said elastic ~~layer~~ body, said adsorbent being carried on said surface layer.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said adsorbent support comprises a brush having bristles on which said adsorbent is carried.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said adsorbent support comprises an endless belt passed over a plurality of support members, said adsorbent being carried on a surface of said endless belt.

Claim 19 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

Claim 21 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 20, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

Claim 22 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

Claim 23 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

Claim 24 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adsorbent comprises grains releasably carried on said adsorbent support.

Claim 25 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said adsorbent support includes an elastic body carrying said adsorbent.

Claim 26 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 25, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 26, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

Claim 28 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 27, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

Claim 29 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

Claim 30 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said adsorbent support comprises an elastic body and a surface layer removably fitted on said elastic ~~layer~~ body, said adsorbent being carried on said surface layer.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said adsorbent support comprises a brush having bristles on which said adsorbent is carried.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed i n claim 24, wherein said adsorbent support comprises an endless belt passed over a plurality of support members, said adsorbent being carried on a surface of said endless belt.

Claim 34 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

Claim 35 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adsorbent support includes an elastic body carrying said adsorbent.

Claim 36 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 35, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 36, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

Claim 38 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 37, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

Claim 39 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 38, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

Claim 40 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 38, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adsorbent support comprises an elastic body and a surface layer removably fitted on said elastic layer body, said adsorbent being carried on said surface layer.

Claim 42 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 41, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 42, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

Claim 44 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 43, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

Claim 45 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 44, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

Claim 46 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 44, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

Claim 47 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adsorbent support comprises a brush having bristles on which said adsorbent is carried.

Claim 48 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed in claim 47, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

Claim 49 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 48, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

Claim 50 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed in claim 49, wherein said

adsorbent comprises zeolite.

Claim 51 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed in claim 50, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

Claim 52 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed in claim 50, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

Claim 53 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adsorbent support comprises an endless belt passed over a plurality of support members, said adsorbent being carried on a surface of said endless belt.

Claim 54 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed in claim 53, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

Claim 55 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 54, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

Claim 56 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed in claim 55, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

Claim 57 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed in claim 56, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

Claim 58 (Withdrawn): The device as claimed in claim 56, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

Claim 59 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable.

60 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 59, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

Claim 61 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 60, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

Claim 62 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 61, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

Claim 63 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 61, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings

Claim 64 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said the voids of said adsorbent have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of ammonium nitrate therethrough.

Claim 65 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 64, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

Claim 66 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 65, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

Claim 67 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 65, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

Claim 68 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adsorbent comprises zeolite.

Claim 69 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 68, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least six oxygen rings.

Claim 70 (Original): The device as claimed in claim 68, wherein the molecular structure of zeolite has at least eight oxygen rings.

Claim 71 (Currently Amended): ~~In a~~ A process cartridge including a device for removing a substance that disfigures an image, said device comprising:

an adsorbent support supporting an adsorbent having a molecular structure including voids that have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of said substance~~[[,]]~~ ~~which is~~ deposited on a surface of an image carrier, ~~therethrough~~ through the adsorbent and contain water therein.

Claim 72 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
a device for removing a substance that disfigures an image; and

an image carrier configured to form an image thereon; said device comprising:

an adsorbent support supporting an adsorbent having a molecular structure including voids that have a diameter great enough to pass molecules of said substance, ~~which is deposited on a surface of said image carrier, therethrough~~ through the adsorbent and ~~containing~~ contain water ~~therein, wherein the substance is present on the surface of an image carrier.~~

Claim 73 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 72, wherein said adsorbent support is rotatable by being driven by said image carrier.

Claim 74 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 73, wherein said adsorbent support contacts said image carrier at a position downstream, in a direction in which the surface of said image carrier moves, of a position where cleaning means for removing toner left on said image carrier after image transfer contacts said image carrier, but upstream of a position where latent image forming means writes a latent image on said image carrier.

Claim 75 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 74, wherein said adsorbent support contacts said image carrier at a position downstream, in said direction, of a position where a charging device uniformly charges said image carrier, but upstream of the position where said latent image forming means writes a latent image on said image carrier.

Claim 76 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 75, wherein said image carrier comprises an amorphous silicon photoconductor.

Claim 77 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 75, wherein said image carrier comprises a photoconductor having a surface layer in which a ~~filer~~ filler is dispersed.

Claim 78 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 72, wherein said adsorbent ~~carrier~~ support and said image carrier each move at a particular linear velocity.

Claim 79 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 78, wherein said adsorbent support contacts said image carrier at a position downstream, in a direction in which the surface of said image carrier moves, of a position where cleaning means for removing toner left on said image carrier after image transfer contacts said image carrier, but upstream of a position where latent image forming means writes a latent image on said image carrier.

Claim 80 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 79, wherein said adsorbent support contacts said image carrier at a position downstream, in said direction, of a position where a charging device uniformly charges said image carrier, but upstream of the position where said latent image forming means writes a latent image on said image carrier.

Claim 81 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein said image carrier comprises an amorphous silicon photoconductor.

Claim 82 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein said image carrier comprises a photoconductor having a surface layer in which a ~~filer~~ filler is dispersed.

Claim 83 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 72, wherein said adsorbent support contacts said image carrier at a position downstream, in a direction in which the surface of said image carrier moves, of a position where cleaning means for removing toner left on said image carrier after image transfer contacts said image carrier, but upstream of a position where latent image forming means writes a latent image on said image carrier.

Claim 84 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 83, wherein said adsorbent support contacts said image carrier at a position downstream, in said direction, of a position where a charging device uniformly charges said image carrier, but upstream of the position where said latent image forming means writes a latent image on said image carrier.

Claim 85 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 84, wherein said image carrier comprises an amorphous silicon photoconductor.

Claim 86 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 84, wherein said image carrier comprises a photoconductor having a surface layer in which a ~~filer~~ filler is dispersed.

Claim 87 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 72, wherein said adsorbent support contacts said image carrier at a position downstream, in said direction, of a position where a charging device uniformly charges said image carrier, but upstream of the position where ~~said a~~ latent image forming means writes a latent image on said image carrier.

Claim 88 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 87, wherein said image carrier comprises an amorphous silicon photoconductor.

Claim 89 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 87, wherein said image carrier comprises a photoconductor having a surface layer in which a ~~filer~~ filler is dispersed.

Claim 90 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 72, wherein said image carrier comprises a photoconductor having a surface layer in which a ~~filer~~ filler is dispersed.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1-90 are active in the present application. Claims 1-11, 14-16, 19-31, 34-46 and 59-90 are claims which read on the elected species and are currently under active prosecution. Claims 12, 13, 17, 18, 32, 33 and 47-58 are non-elected claims currently withdrawn. The claims have been amended for clarity. Support for the amendment is found in the original claims and throughout the specification. No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment. The Abstract has been amended to better conform to the requirements of M.P.E.P. § 608.01(b).